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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP
INTELLIGENCE REPORT

COUNTRY Foreign Radio Transmitters

DATE:

SUBJECT Foreign Radio Commentary on
U.S. Civil Rights

INFO. 1 May - 16 June 1947

DIST. 8 July 1947

ORIGIN Foreign Radios

PAGES 2

SUPPLEMENT

EVALUATION OF SOURCE

A	B	C	D	E	F
COMPLETELY RELIABLE	USUALLY RELIABLE	FAIRLY RELIABLE	NOT USUALLY RELIABLE	NOT RELIABLE	CANNOT BE JUDGED

EVALUATION OF CONTENT

1	2	3	4	5	6
CONFIRMED OTHER SOUR.	PROBABLY TRUE	POSSIBLY TRUE	DOUBTFUL	PROBABLY FALSE	CANNOT BE JUDGED

DISTRIBUTION

X	X	X				X				
STATE	WAR	NAVY	JUSTICE	R & E	C & D	AAF				

SOURCE Foreign Radios

The period surveyed covers broadcasting from May 1 to June 16, 1947. The data is gathered from the FBIB Daily Reports, the weekly FBIB Special Reports and other intercepts not included in one or both of the Reports. All available foreign radio commentary purporting to show violations of American civil rights originates only with Soviet or Soviet-controlled transmitters.

The Soviet treatment of alleged violations of the 13th and the 14th Amendments and the Civil Rights Bills of 1866, 1870 and 1875 is currently handled in terms of:

1. Race discrimination:
2. Congressional Committee on Un-American Activities:
3. Loyalty investigation of Government employees and of veterans:
4. Freedom of speech and press.

In some cases single radio items include more than one of the single subjects, obviously since much of the material is topically interrelated.

The bulk of Moscow's criticism appears to be focussed on U.S. discrimination against Negroes. The lynchings in southern States afford a ready vehicle for several commentaries on the deprivation of the civil rights of Negro citizens, i.e. the right to fair trial. The well-worked theme is presented in several contexts, aside from the lynching incidents. The Soviet showing of the American play "Deep Are the Roots," the American system of education which "teaches race discrimination," American motion pictures which "repeatedly portray the accepted and degraded position of the Negro," a British "branch" of the U.S. Ku Klux Klan, Swedish opinion on U.S. race discrimination, and the "Voice of America's" treatment of the lynchings, are all utilized as springboards for Soviet commentary in this topical category.

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The Un-American Activities Congressional Committee is being given increasingly greater emphasis by the Soviet radio in its attempt to illustrate the current "disavowal" of traditional American civil rights. Most of the mentions involving the Committee are in connection with other standard Soviet approaches: "U.S. Trade Union struggles with domestic reaction," American anti-Communism, the motion picture industry "witchhunt," Henry Wallace's statements on the "reactionary Congress and its activities in defaming progressive individuals and organizations."

Constituting more or less of a corollary theme of the foregoing are the specific observations on the "loyalty check" to which civil servants in the employ of the U.S. Federal Government are being subjected, and Congressional efforts to penalize veterans who "espouse liberal causes or who admit to progressive ideals." This category, however, is not directly tied to the Un-American Activities Committee, but is rather pegged to the American "anti-Communist campaign."

The restriction of U.S. press and free speech is a regularly reviewed topic used by the Soviet radio in "proving the degeneration of American civil rights." In conveying evidence in this connection, Moscow employs a variety of material, including the Soviet drama, "The Fate of Reginald Davis" who is "court-martialed for publicly adhering to old-fashioned Rooseveltian" democratic opinion, "fabrications" of anti-Communist American newspapermen, the "capitalistic control" of the American press, and the refusal of American radio facilities to "liberal radio commentators such as Johannes Steel."

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